

1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment

Regulars, by God!

Volume 1, Issue 5

May 15, 2006

FROM THE COMMANDER

Happy Mothers Day from southern Baghdad! We have completed our fifth month here and each day is unique with a new challenge. Our Soldiers are doing great and I am incredibly proud of each one of them and what they have accomplished. As I mentioned last month, we have continued to increase our pace of operations against the enemy and our collective efforts are having great impacts on the insurgent ranks. We have developed a trust with the Iraqi people in our area and they increasingly view us as here to help them stabilize and rebuild their country.

Our combat operations have been incredibly successful this month. Of note, we have killed and captured several “High Value Individuals” in our area and our Soldiers have performed superbly. We have found more caches of enemy munitions this past month than any other like period since we arrived. We have also expertly employed virtually every weapon system we have access to – from hand grenades to Apache helicopter Hellfire missiles. When required, our Soldiers are very lethal.

Although we have been busy reducing the fighting strength of the enemy with traditional tasks, we have also made great strides in civil actions as well. For example, we have empowered local leaders, witnessed the emergence of a local government, renovated schools, repaired roads, dug wells, and cleaned canals for water to flow more freely to the fields. These efforts infuse money into the local economy, employ people of the area, develop pride in their communities, and reduce the grip that the enemy once had in this region. Combat operations are important – but those actions alone will not win this war. Civil military and combat operations must work closely together and in parallel to achieve long-term success in Iraq.

This past month, we suffered one killed in action and eight wounded in action. We lost Specialist Ronald Gebur of B Company in the early morning of May 13th when an IED detonated under the vehicle he was riding in. Our thoughts and prayers are with him, his young wife Beth, and their son. We will never forget his life and service to the nation. Although all of our wounded are expected to make full recoveries, Sergeant Adam Moore (D Company) and Staff Sergeant Rodney Nelson (Military Transition Team) have returned to the United States due to the severity of their wounds. I continue to be amazed at the medical evacuation system and I am certain that their skills have saved lives. Everyone from our young riflemen conducting first aid at the point of injury to our brothers and sisters at the 10th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad contributes to taking care of our heroes. In particular, our young medics are the best I have ever seen in 17 years of service and I have great faith in every one of them.

We continue to partner with 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, of the 6th Iraqi Division and they routinely conduct operations with us. The Iraqi Soldiers conduct raids, cordon and searches, air assaults, patrols, and checkpoint operations – to name just some of the things they do. Unfortunately, our Iraqi partners suffered casualties at a rate much higher than ours this month.

Our thoughts are with them, their families, and the unit. Although the international press gives much attention to the number of Americans that are killed each day, please remember that Iraqis are also fighting and dying for their country as well.

The Military Transition Team tasked to help train our Iraqi battalion is headed by Major Chuck Freeman of the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment from Ft Campbell. He and his team of 17 professionals are the continuous link with our Iraqi partners and they have done an amazing job teaching and coaching them to be a better unit. Our collective success would not be possible without them and they are as much a part of the Regulars as anyone else. Major Freeman will be returning to his unit for the rest of the deployment before we send you the next newsletter and we wish him the very best – he has been a key player in what we have accomplished to date.

We are all very proud of each one of our Soldiers that reenlisted this past month – we had another 39 great Americans raise their right hand and recite the oath. Any reenlistment is special and shows a commitment to our Army and to the nation, but reenlistment in a combat zone is even more distinctive and shows that our Soldiers knowingly and willingly accept the risks and hardships associated with our service. It is an affirmation that they are willing to fight and die for the ideals of our nation. I want to thank all of the family members of those who have reenlisted as well. Thank you for continuing to support your loved one as he continues to serve – you all have sacrificed as well and I thank you for your commitment and support.

As many of you know, we will be moving to another FOB in the coming month. When it occurs, it will be a planned operation and it is in response to a need for our forces to operate in another area of the country. Our address will change, but we will ensure that the Family Readiness Group has the required information at the appropriate time. Perhaps the best part of the move will be that all of us in the battalion will be at the same place for the first time since we left Kuwait in early December.

If you have any concerns or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the Rear Detachment Commander—Captain Warren Litherland. His duty is to assist our loved ones in the states while we conduct our mission here and he is doing a great job for all of us. The Rear Detachment's contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

The Regulars continue to set the standard in Iraq and I am proud to be associated with them—it is a privilege to lead them each day. I cannot overstate how well our Soldiers are performing, how important your support is to us, and I cannot tell you thank you enough for what you have done. Our Family Readiness Group leaders continue to take care of the home front and, without them, we would fail. I personally want to thank each of them and they have my undying gratitude. Please keep all of the Regulars in your thoughts and prayers.

Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words.

— Lieutenant Colonel Craig A. Osborne (Regular 6)



Lieutenant Colonel Osborne and Command Sergeant Major Beal in front of the PSD Vehicles in the International Zone

Lieutenant Colonel Osborne Listens to a Lieutenant from Iraq's National Police Force

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Hello Folks,

Well, another month has come and gone and it has been another month of exceptional performance by the Soldiers of the “Regulars, By God” battalion here in Baghdad, Iraq. Another month of applying incredible pressure against a very determined enemy; another month of helping the people of Iraq get on their feet and establish their own government; another month of outstanding service by our Soldiers; and another month that we have been separated from our loved ones. Again, I am incredibly pleased and proud of all of the Soldiers – each and every day for all they do and all the things in life they give up in order to accomplish their duties.

Many of you have heard by now that the battalion is preparing to move again. We will be leaving FOB FALCON soon and heading to our new “home.” After a short transition with the outgoing unit, we will assume new battlespace in a different part of the country. There are new challenges that await us there and we are ready to accept those challenges. We will also be realigned with our parent brigade from Fort Hood and our detached companies will be reattached to us – something we are happily looking forward to. For the Soldiers – our accommodations will be a bit nicer and they will have access to more morale-oriented facilities.

We will leave behind a lasting legacy of successes here in “AO REGULARS”. Our time here seems short, when considering the grand scheme of rebuilding this nation. But, our successes have been borne on the foundation of sacrifices and long, hot hours given by our Soldiers here. We have sown the seeds of success for this area to cultivate, to grow, and to learn from. We will leave behind the evidence of our presence here, in the form of newly re-opened schools, roads that are now repaired, flowing water, electricity to those who went without, and numerous other projects beginning now that will be completed after our departure.

Since our arrival here in January, we have been partnered with an Iraqi Army infantry battalion – the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, of the 6th Iraqi Division. We have worked side-by-side with these Soldiers from the beginning. We have taught them what we could, shown them the ways of a professional army, and mentored them at every turn in the road. They have become part of us here. They represent the future of Iraq – a volunteer force of citizens who want their country to progress into the 21st century and want the violence to end. They are also part of our legacy here in AO REGULARS. We will miss them.

And finally, a word of thanks to all of the great people back home in the U.S. who continually amaze me by their patriotism and love for Soldiers. I am asked frequently, “What can I send the Soldiers? What do the Soldiers need?” With over 900 Soldiers in the unit, I can probably give

you 900 separate answers. As a general rule – there is probably nothing we really “need,” but everything you send is greatly appreciated. Thanks for thinking about us and keeping us in your prayers. Until next month, thanks for your great support to the battalion, and may God continue to bless America.

Regulars by God!

— Command Sergeant Major Richard Beal (Regular 7)



MG Thuman and CSM Beal in the Battalion Headquarters on FOB FALCON

A COMPANY – GATOR

I will start this letter by saying that our time serving with the Special Troops Battalion (STB) is quickly drawing to a close. The first five months of this deployment have proven very challenging, very rewarding, and have given this company the opportunity to develop an appreciation for the hard work that units other than 1-22 IN participate in. The Paratroopers from B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery of the 82nd Airborne Division have arrived. They have accepted their new assignment with open arms and an energy that is certainly necessary for the tasks they will pick up in a couple of days. The Gators have been more than happy to train them – let’s hope they uphold the standard we have instituted.

Of course, as we depart, we have to say farewell to the STB battle squads that First Lieutenants Chris Thelen and John Sabia and their platoons worked with on a daily basis. The Red, White and Blue battle squads accomplished a large number of patrols in the Baghdad Area without any significant setbacks. The squads are an integral part of the battalion’s mission, and they will continue to transport the division’s staff around the battlefield for the remainder of the year. Due to mission requirements and a desire to respect the Iraqi culture, we were blessed with the addition of four very knowledgeable and hard-working female Soldiers. Staff Sergeant Komlofske, Sergeant Tran, Specialist Mack, and Private Second Class Davila each helped make our job easier to accomplish because of their work ethic.

This month, 3rd Platoon provided security for a performance by the Charlie Daniels Band. That was the most notable VIP visit, though there were others for which we provided security. The most memorable event was a video teleconference with students from Pottsgrove Elementary School in Pottstown, PA. We had a great time answering their questions and describing what it is that we do here. It was certainly a treat to see young kids in the U.S. who seemed very excited to see and hear from deployed Soldiers.

Recent recipients of the Gator of the Week are: Staff Sergeant Timothy Mosteller, Specialist Bryan Hart, Specialist Joshua Reed, Specialist Brian Todd, Private First Class George Evans, and Private First Class Norman Herman for selflessly installing twelve sets of additional armor protection on our Bradley Fighting Vehicles; Sergeant Ryan Curry for filling in as the unit armorer for three weeks, re-enlisting, and stealing the NCO of the Month honors from the Special Troops Battalion; Specialist James Pilgreen for developing a mounting bracket for “DANGER” signs on the backs of our vehicles; and Private Second Class Sergio Fulgencio for tirelessly turning Soldiers and leaders away at the dining facility entrance who failed to meet the requisite standard for entry. All of these Soldiers may have been nominated for outstanding performance for a certain week, but the entire company is commended on a daily basis for something. We reward the weekly recipients of the award a trip to Qatar for four days of rest and relaxation.

During the last month, we have provided several critical services to the Special Troops Battalion. We helped train new units on the Escalation of Force, conducted up-armored HMMWV drivers training, marksmanship ranges, security company training, and helped them find missing equipment.

Congratulations to Sergeant Craig Steiner and Specialist Zachary Mayhew on their recent promotions. Congratulations to Specialist Roger Kelley for passing the promotion board and being recommended for advancement to Sergeant. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Gersain Garcia and Staff Sergeant Mark Little for extending their current enlistments by one year. All of these Soldiers have demonstrated exemplary performance in the accomplishment of their missions and are a great asset for the Gators and the U.S. Army.

—Captain Troy Parrish (Gator 6)



The Streets of Sadr City During a Recent Patrol



1LT Sabia Near the Lake Adjacent to the Division Headquarters



Searching an Abandoned Building While on Patrol



Lieutenant Colonel Osborne, First Sergeant McDermott, Captain Parrish, and Command Sergeant Major Beal in the International Zone

B COMPANY – BEAR

The Soldiers of B Company have been very busy in past weeks as we expanded the area we patrol in and increased our number of operations to stay a step ahead of our enemy as the weather begins to heat up. Most of the Soldiers in the company deployed to conduct extended duration operations along the Tigris River with Soldiers from the Iraqi Army. These missions, coupled with temperature that have hovered around 120 degrees took a mental and physical toll on all involved, but were well worth the exhaustion. One Soldier remarked that if his spouse could feel what his feet felt like, she wouldn't complain about him going fishing ever again. The Soldiers were extremely successful in locating enemy caches of weapons and materiel. The subsequent destruction of these will undoubtedly make life a bit more difficult for the insurgents in the future.

As we conduct operations, I am consistently impressed with the level at which the Soldiers and platoons perform. They are truly becoming masters of their profession. The demands of the mission, mid-tour leave, and the like have forced many Soldiers to perform duties that were once foreign to them. In doing so, each Soldier has demonstrated great aptitude, flexibility, and dedication to their fellow Soldiers and the company. The pride you have them is more than justified.

On May 13th, we lost Specialist Ronald Gebur of 2nd Platoon while conducting operations along the Tigris River. There will never be adequate words to express our sorrow and what he has meant to us since he arrived to the Bears in November of 2004. He was one of us, fought with us, and will always be with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, their young son, and their families in Illinois as they grieve for his loss. We will never forget the sacrifice that he has made and we will continue to serve with a renewed commitment to seeing the mission through to a successful end. Anything else would diminish the sacrifice that our brother has made.

Congratulations the following Soldiers who have earned promotions.

- Sergeant Michael Gonzalez to Staff Sergeant
- Sergeant Steven Miller to Staff Sergeant
- Corporal Robert Harden to Sergeant
- Specialist Stephen Fink to Sergeant
- Specialist Brian Hastings to Sergeant

Finally, I'd like to say goodbye to Sergeant First Class (Promotable) Michael Willis, who will be departing the company when he returns from leave at the end of this month. After seven months of service to the Bears as 1st Platoon's Platoon Sergeant and then Platoon Leader, he will depart the company to assume duties as the First Sergeant of A Company. His promotion is well deserved and he will bring a great deal to the Gators. Without a doubt, he is one of the most competent and professional NCOs in the Army. Although he will be sorely missed by the platoon and company alike, it will be good to have him in A Company fighting alongside us. On behalf of the Bears, I'd like to thank him and his family for his unparalleled dedication.

Thanks to Erin Jones who continues to provide great service to the families of B Company. A special thanks to all who were able to participate in the Video Teleconferences with your Soldiers. We hope to continue to have these available in the future. I trust this letter finds you and yours well. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our Soldiers.

—Captain Matthew Weber (Bear 6)



B Company Soldiers Work Tirelessly to Uncover Caches in a Wooded Area along the Tigris River



A Night Air Assault along the Tigris River as Seen Through a Night Vision Device



An M88A2 Recovery Vehicle Repositions a Container Inside Patrol Base 2



A Small Cache of RPG Rounds - Munitions Are Laid Out and Inventoried Before Being Destroyed

C COMPANY – CHAOS

Happy Mothers Day everyone! I saw an awful lot of letters being written home this past week so I am confident that I speak for the entire company in wishing all of you a Happy Mother's Day. I'd like to thank all the friends and families who have sent packages for the Soldiers as well as gifts for the children in the local area – your generosity and thoughtfulness are much appreciated.

We had the honor of promoting several Soldiers in C Company this past month. Justin Twombly, the second Platoon Leader, was promoted to First Lieutenant. Specialist Elton Gonzales, Specialist Christopher Kingman, and Specialist Jeremy Tate were all promoted to Sergeant, entering into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

This past month, Staff Sergeant Michael Singleton, Sergeant Dario Noguera, Sergeant Manuel Sanchez, Sergeant Jeremy Tate, Specialist Jose Dorado, Specialist Min Htut, Specialist Christopher Leo, and Specialist Rodolfo Perez all reenlisted. I personally want to thank all the families of the Soldiers who have made the decision to continue their service in the United States Army. On April 29th, Major General Thurman took the time to reenlist seven of our Soldiers in the Division Headquarters. Major General Thurman thanked them for their continued service and expressed his appreciation for their contribution. It was a terrific ceremony and attendees included Colonel Pasquarette, Division Command Sergeant Major Riling, Lieutenant Colonel Osborne, Command Sergeant Major Beal and many other Chaos Soldiers to include 1SG Jerry Salvante and me.

Tactically, we continue to achieve success in our area. We have successfully severed a main enemy supply route which has disrupted terrorist efforts. We have also made such a positive impact on the local people that they have begun to express a willingness to help us defeat the insurgents in the area. They warn us of IEDs that they see by placing stones across the road in front of the devices. They have also come to our checkpoints and passed us written notes as well as verbally telling us about IEDs. This has all been made possible by your sons and husbands being kind to the children as well as respecting and honoring the Iraqi customs and beliefs. The Soldiers in C Company will always be remembered in a positive way by the people here.

As you have probably heard from your loved ones, there will soon be a task organization change. C Company will be going back to 1-22 IN under LTC Osborne. There are a lot of questions to be answered – well above the company-level. You can be confident that as soon as we are informed of more details we will inform you and your spouses. As far as mailing addresses, I assure you that all mail will be routed properly and I will send the new address to the FRG. Although we have enjoyed working with our brothers in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) over the last few months, we all look forward to reuniting with the rest of the Regulars.

—Captain John Robertson (Chaos 6)



SGT Borawski Smiles with Local Boys



A Controlled Detonation of an IED that We Discovered While Conducting Operations



SPC Leo with Local Children

D COMPANY – DEATH DEALER

Greetings to all the friends, families, and loved ones of our Soldiers back home. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. Spring is officially over here as we see the temperatures climb over 100 degrees during the daytime. Soldiers already miss the rain we had the past few months as we continue operations in our area.

The Soldiers of D Company have been really busy the past few weeks. Along with our normal patrols of our sector, we have conducted cordons and searches in two of our major population centers and missions along the Tigris River Valley (TRV). Our missions along the TRV have been successful because our platoons have set the conditions for success in other parts of our area. We have been able to severely disrupt the enemy by operating for long periods of time in an area where he wasn't prepared for us. The company played an integral role in killing the Brigade's #1 target and capturing two other high-level operatives in the same terrorist cell. This severely disrupted the enemy and brought great praise to the Regulars and the Soldiers of this company. Unfortunately, Sergeant Adam Moore and Staff Sergeant Rodney Nelson were wounded in our recent operations and our prayers go out to those great Soldiers and their families for a speedy recovery. Sergeant Moore was recognized by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld for his service by receiving the Purple Heart from the SECDEF before being flown home.

I would also like to congratulate First Sergeant Richard Johnson on being selected as the General Fredrick M. Franks, Jr. Award winner for the Army. He was selected for representing the Armor Branch as a Mounted Warrior for a Nation at War. First Sergeant Johnson is well deserving of this award and my congratulations go out to him and his family for all of their hard work and dedication they have put into the Armor Community and our Army over their years of service.

As many of you have heard, the battalion will be moving again soon. The Dealers will take part in this move with the rest of the battalion. This is just a sign of the successes of the coalition in Iraq and can be expected as we continue to hand responsibilities over to the Iraqis. Our next home will have the same comforts as our current home and I am confident that the Soldiers of this company will continue to bring success to the battalion no matter what mission we are given. Every day I am proud of the accomplishments the Soldiers of this company continue to bring to our mission and I thank God for his blessing and his shield over this company.

—Captain Jared Rudacille (Dealer 6)



First Sergeant Johnson of D Company



First Lieutenant Spofford, D Company Fire Support Officer, Pulls Security During a Mission in Arab Jubur



D Company Clears Routes While Conducting Operations in Arab Jubur



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld Pinned a Purple Heart on Sergeant Moore in a Baghdad Hospital

E COMPANY – KILLER

As the fifth month of our deployment comes to an end, I continue to be extremely proud of all our Soldiers for their dedication to getting the job done and taking care of each other.

This was a challenging month for our brothers in the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment as they dealt with the loss of two exceptional noncommissioned officers. One of those was Sergeant Steve M. Sakoda, a squad leader in Bonecrusher Troop's 2nd Platoon that was attached to our company. He worked diligently to help us train the Iraqi Army and secure the main supply route that our friendly forces use daily. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

As the summer months begin here in Iraq, our Soldiers continue to remain hard at work completing their missions, conducting maintenance on their vehicles, staying in shape by conducting physical training, and moving into their new trailers on FOB STRIKER. The living conditions here – and at our future location – are a welcome improvement over previous deployments. Today we have a very good dining facility that even serves “midnight chow;” air-conditioned trailers that house showers, toilets and sinks with both hot and cold running water; tents and trailers with their own air conditioning systems; a motor pool; and amenities such as an internet café, phones, PX, Barber Shop, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Green Bean Coffee Shop, and a free Laundry service – all located within walking distance. All of these things afford the Soldiers the opportunity to relax and enjoy some of the comforts found back in the States when they are not out on mission.

This month, I would like to congratulate Sergeant Steven Crayton, Sergeant Lorenzo Franklin, and Sergeant Jose Gandara for their recent promotions and willingness to continue to take care of our Soldiers as noncommissioned officers. I would also like to congratulate Private First Class Alexander Peters for his recent promotion and Specialist Joshua Keyser for his reenlistment.

In closing, our Soldiers continue to do an outstanding job – getting the mission completed while maintaining a high level of motivation and discipline that has made the company successful to this point. I appreciate all of the hard work by our Soldiers who are far from home and the family members and friends who continue to support us in all we do. Thank you.

—Captain Patsky Gomez (Killer 6)



Sergeant Steve M. Sakoda



Specialist Hemmen and Private First Class Joseph Await Receipt of the Army Commendation Medal for Their Actions in Combat



Private First Class Horne and First Lieutenant Rawlings Pose for a Picture Outside of the Company Headquarters



The E Company Motorpool on FOB STRIKER



Captain Gomez Awards the Combat Action Badge to Specialist Rdiall for Participation in Ground Combat with Insurgents

E COMPANY/4TH SUPPORT BATTALION – ELIMINATOR

The past 30 days has been an outstanding period of time for the Eliminators. As we prepare to move from the place we call home, our Soldiers continue to take initiative and improve our area. Staff Sergeant Mark Overturf continues to do an amazing job designing and building, walls, desks, and chairs to enhance our living conditions.

The Eliminators continue to remain steadfast and loyal. The Headquarters Platoon continues to coordinate food and water for our Soldiers and is responsible for all administrative transactions in the company. The Maintenance Platoon continues to work diligently to sustain combat power for the Task Force. The Supply and Transportation Platoon provides uninterrupted support to the Task Force by ensuring all required supplies and fuel are readily available. They also push critical supplies to our forward patrol base every few days for our Soldiers living outside of FOB FALCON.

In the past month our Soldiers have been really busy. We have completed a multitude of tasks that include logistics resupply missions, escort missions, mosque monitoring, route improvements, inspecting Iraqi Police checkpoints, maintenance, guard duty, and barrier emplacement. The Eliminators have the strength, will, and abilities – regardless of the situation – to provide other Regulars with any asset that they need to be successful on the battlefield.

Our Soldiers know and understand their mission and have done an outstanding job providing support to the Task Force. We continue to accept and complete every task assigned to us and try to build good relationships with the Iraqi Army throughout. Everyday is unique and different and our Soldiers are proud of what they have accomplished – we are always ready for the next mission.

—Captain Jennifer McDonough (Eliminator 6)



Staff Sergeant Bishop Performs Maintenance on a PLS



Specialist Verdugo Operates a Forklift on FOB FALCON



Specialist Asbury and Staff Sergeant Smith on FOB FALCON



Second Lieutenant Mars and SPC Barney in Hawar Rajab



First Lieutenant Hughes and a Local Sheik Exchange Greetings

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY – HAMMER

As the weather turns hotter and the insurgents become more desperate because of our past success, I am continually impressed by the physical stamina, mental toughness, and selfless service that the Hammer Soldiers provide to our country and to the Iraqi people each day. The

men of Hammer Company have contributed greatly to the battalion's successes this month – which have been many.

The Scout Platoon continued to provide the Personal Security Detachment (PSD) to Lieutenant Colonel Osborne and serve as his security element as he moves around our area. Regular 6 travels daily throughout the battlefield – talking to local leaders and checking on the troops – and it is the PSD that protects him everywhere he goes. Our scouts and snipers attached to B and D Companies have conducted numerous missions this past month to locate enemy caches and to kill or capture insurgents. Their operations along the Tigris River proved highly successful as they discovered the vast majority of the IEDs that the enemy emplaced. They also found so many caches of enemy weapons and munitions that insurgent operations have been significantly disrupted.

The Mortar Platoon conducted many escort missions for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team as they destroyed IEDs that were found throughout our area. They also continued to operate in a company-sized area of operations, cataloging business, searching for caches, and interacting with the locals to gain intelligence.

The Medical Platoon has excelled at treating the traumatic wounds sustained by our Iraqi Army counterparts, civilians wounded by insurgent bombs, and our own Soldiers that have been wounded in action. Particularly noteworthy is the performance of Specialist Matthew Snider who saved the lives of several Iraqi Army Soldiers that were struck by an IED. Also impressive were the actions of Specialist Matthew Carpenter as he conducted trauma treatment of one of our Military Transition Team Soldiers who sustained gunshot wounds to both legs.

The Bradley Fire Support Teams attached to each company made great progress this month by identifying basic needs in many villages and recommending projects to improve the quality of life of the people. Through their efforts, the battalion has submitted 37 projects that will tremendously enhance the local economies and increase the quality of life in each village.

The Fire and Effects Coordination Cell continues to support the battalion with indirect fires. In the past 30 days, they have directed ten area denial missions and six counterfire missions.

The Command Group, Staff, and Headquarters Section planned, coordinated, supervised, and supported several highly successful combat operations this past month. The battalion found numerous IEDs and enemy caches which significantly disrupted the enemy's ability to launch attacks in our area of operations. It takes a lot of thankless, behind the scenes work to keep the battalion running. The men of the Command Group, Staff, and Headquarters Section continue to serve as quiet professionals and to lead the battalion to victory.

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who were recently promoted or passed their promotion boards:

Promoted to Staff Sergeant – Staff Sergeant Jason Pollock (Headquarters Section), Staff Sergeant Antoine Jordan (Medics)

Promoted to Sergeant – Sergeant Michael Kannitzer (Scouts), Sergeant Ivan Santillanes (HQ Section), Sergeant Jeremy Sanders (S6)

Appointed to Corporal – Corporal Timothy Carr (S3), Corporal Luis Venegas (Medics)

Passed the Staff Sergeant Board – Sergeant Lino Presas (S1)

Happy Anniversary to CPT Joseph Latendresse and his wife – they celebrate their two year anniversary on May 15th.

Happy Birthday to the following Hammer Soldiers who have recently celebrated birthdays here:

- Specialist Keith Gomez – April 19th
- First Lieutenant Christopher Burciaga – April 22nd
- Major Joseph Holland – April 30th
- Specialist Timothy Yingling – April 30th
- Sergeant Major Noe Salinas – May 14th

We love you all and thank you for all of your prayers and support. Each day we are making our area a little better than it was before. We are capturing and killing terrorists, finding and destroying their weapons, helping to build better essential public services, and preparing Iraq's civil and military leaders to assume full responsibility for security of their country and development of its future. The men of Hammer Company remain faithfully yours and "Steadfast and Loyal."

—Captain Craig Childs (Hammer 6)



Sergeant Maldonado and Sergeant England Relax for a Moment During Recent Medical Skills Training



Sergeant Santillanes Gets Promoted by Command Sergeant Major Beal



Staff Sergeant Barker Prepares for a Mission on FOB FALCON



Captain McGraw and SFC Esselman Relax for a Minute in Their Office of the Battalion Headquarters

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Spring is such a wonderful time of year. The grass is green, the trees are full, the birds are flying (so do the mosquitoes), and change is all around. It is the season of change and new life. These last few months have been wrought with change. How you deal with these changes

determines the end result. What do I mean by this? You can either choose to be positive or negative about your change. One thing I have learned about Army life is to expect and learn to adapt to change. Learning to adapt to change is seeing this as an opportunity instead of an obstacle. “How am I supposed to see being away from my loved one as an opportunity?” By trying your best not to dwell on the circumstance of separation, but rather seek to discover new places, new things, and new ways of long distance communication, broadening oneself and living each day to its fullest potential. I realize this is easier to write and say than it is to do. Let me give you an example.

In the old family movie, Pollyanna, we find a little orphan girl around ten years old who goes to live with an aunt. The aunt is very practical, but not very people oriented and neither are the townsfolk. They are stuck in their ways and so resistant to change that they complain, argue, gossip and cannot even see the good out of life. Pollyanna seeks to change this through her positive attitude toward life in spite of losing her parents. Her positive attitude toward “happy texts” in the Bible even changed the preacher and made him more encouraging instead of “hellfire and brimstone.” Her father taught her early in life that the attitude of a person is infectious and a good attitude is better to spread around than the poison caused by being negative all the time. An old Hebrew saying says “a joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” I used to hear the phrase, “You can just get glad in the same pants you got sad in – it’s up to you.”

The truth is that a joyful heart is one of contentment in any and all circumstances and it is only an attitude adjustment away. Oh, at the end of the movie we see Pollyanna paralyzed from a nasty fall and not very positive about life without walking. Do you know what happened? The very same once pessimistic townsfolk all came to her house in the hopes of cheering her up. It worked! Her attitude began to change by being around those she once helped. Our attitude spreads to those around us and Pollyanna helped change the whole outlook of an entire town. I urge you to lean on each other, encourage one another, share meals together, enjoy life together and do your best to make the most of this deployment. Unwrap each day as if it really were a present and live it. Do not allow a broken spirit to dry up your bones. The choice is yours...

—Chaplain (Captain) John Hill



Chaplain Hill Prays with Sergeant Moore of D Company in the Hospital After He Was Wounded

SCHOOL PROJECTS

As part of our desire to help the people in our area, we have focused some of our efforts at repairing and renovating schools. To be blunt, the schools are in bad shape and need a great deal

of work. Most schools do not have electricity, plumbing, or drinking water and are filled with broken windows, dirt floors, and an overcrowding problem that is unseen in the United States. We frequently see 50 children in a classroom that would accommodate perhaps 20 students in America.

This past month, we have worked with 13 different schools and renovations at those sites are in various stages. Through cooperation and interaction with headmasters and contractors, work at five of these schools is complete and those schools now provide a much better learning environment for the thousands of children we see each day. As each school is finished, we conduct a Dedication Ceremony with the headmaster, contractor, council members, sheiks, and Soldiers to highlight the cooperation between the Iraqi people, the local Iraqi government, and coalition forces. There will always be more work to be done, but we are making a great impact in the lives of Iraqi families every day.



The Condition of Most Local Schools Is Very Poor



A Local Sheik—also the Contractor for Some of Our Projects—Holds the Ribbon at a School Opening Ceremony



The “Before” Picture of a School in Adwaniyah that We Renovated



The “After” Picture of the Same School in Adwaniyah



Inside of a Classroom Before Renovation



Inside a Classroom After Renovation Has Been Completed



Lieutenant Colonel Osborne Presents a Certificate to the Headmaster During a Recent School Opening Ceremony



The Exterior of a School Recently Renovated Through the Efforts of the Battalion

REENLISTMENTS

We continue to retain quality Soldiers in our Army through reenlistment. Reenlistment in a combat zone shows a great commitment to our nation and our Army...and the monetary bonuses are also tax free. Although the money is a nice incentive, our Soldiers continue to reenlist because they believe in what they are doing and want to be a part of something much larger than themselves. Our reenlistments continue to take place at various locations such as the palace in Baghdad to the patrol base in our area. We congratulate and thank the 39 Soldiers and their families that have reenlisted in the past 30 days. Their names are:

- Staff Sergeant Antoine Jordan (HHC)
- Staff Sergeant David Keicher (B CO)
- Staff Sergeant Isaac Lopez (HHC)
- Staff Sergeant Brian Williams (E/4SB)
- Sergeant Ryan Curry (A CO)
- Sergeant Claude Goodwin (HHC)
- Sergeant Vincente Martinez (HHC)
- Sergeant Dario Noguera (HHC)
- Sergeant Ross Rutledge (E/4SB)
- Sergeant Manuel Sanchez (C CO)
- Sergeant Jeremy Sanders (HHC)
- Sergeant Michael Singleton (C CO)
- Sergeant Christopher Trejo (E/4SB)
- Sergeant Brian Verdeber (HHC)
- Corporal Matthew Shaw (HHC)
- Corporal Luis Venegas (HHC)
- Specialist Michael Beal (B CO)
- Specialist Timothy Cardinal (HHC)
- Specialist Matthew Carpenter (HHC)
- Specialist Cody Covington (HHC)

- Specialist Jose Dorado (C CO)
- Specialist Stephen Fink (B CO)
- Specialist Joshua Gangl (E/4SB)
- Specialist Michael Gates (B CO)
- Specialist Min Htut (C CO)
- Specialist Joshua Keyser (E CO)
- Specialist Stephen Langlitz (B CO)
- Specialist Christopher Leo (C CO)
- Specialist Ryan Meador (A CO)
- Specialist Michael Monahan (A CO)
- Specialist Rodolfo Perez (C CO)
- Specialist Peter Sannicolas (A CO)

- Specialist Brian Suitt (HHC)
- Specialist Jeremy Tate (C CO)
- Specialist Scott Terzo (D CO)
- Private First Class Patrick Blue (HHC)
- Private First Class Robert Santiago (B CO)
- Private First Class Stephen Sharpe (D CO)
- Private First Class Michael Ung (B CO)



MG Thuman Reenlists Nine of Our Soldiers at Once in Front of the Battalion Headquarters on FOB FALCON



SPC Monahan Addresses the Crowd After Reciting the Oath in Front of the Crossed Sabers in Baghdad



CPT Weber Congratulates SPC Gates After Reenlisting at Patrol Base 2



MG Thuman Takes a Picture with Seven C Company Soldiers After They Reenlisted in the Division Headquarters



2LT Chychota and SPC Keyser Pose for a Picture Immediately Following SPC Keyser's Reenlistment Ceremony on FOB STRIKER



2LT Mars Reenlists SSG Williams in the International Zone in Baghdad



LTC Osborne Reenlists PFC Blue in Front of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle on FOB FALCON



1LT Johnson Reenlists SPC Cardinal in Front of the Infamous Crossed Sabers in Baghdad



CPT Latendresse and SGT Verdeber Shake Hands After SGT Verdeber Completes the Oath on FOB FALCON



1LT Armstrong and SGT Noguera Pose for a Picture Upon Completion of the Reenlistment Ceremony at the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad

PICTURES FROM AROUND THE AREA...



An Iraqi Army Medic Comforts a Small Child Who Was Injured During an IED Attack Against Civilians



Major Admiral Prepares to Board a Helicopter for an Aerial Reconnaissance



An ACE Clearing Debris and Trash from the Side of a Road to Make it Easier for Us to Identify IEDs



An Iraqi Army Soldier Patrols Next to the Iraqi Army's New Armored Vehicle



An Iraqi Army Soldier Pulls Security During a Recent Mission



US Forces and Iraqi Police Work Together to Isolate an Area Where We Found an IED



Looking Out the Front Window of a HMMWV During a Mounted Patrol Through the Town of Hawar Rajab



US and Iraqi Soldiers Work Together to Air MEDEVAC a Wounded Iraqi Soldier



Iraqi Army Soldiers and a Local Child



Iraqi Army Soldiers Enter a Building During a Cordon and Search Operation



Iraqi Army Soldiers Patrol the Tigris River Valley



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team Members Prepare to Destroy a Cache Filled with Anti-Personnel Mines



Major Freeman and Colonel Ali During Their Last Mission Together



It Isn't All Desert—Dense Foliage Typifies the Area near the Tigris River



Chaplain Hill Conducts Services at Patrol Base 2



Staff Sergeant Pinson—One of Our Air Force Airmen—During Operations along the Tigris River

HISTORY OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment was originally constituted on May 3rd, 1861 in the Regular Army as Companies A and I, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry. It organized in May 1865 as Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry.

Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry consolidated on May 4th, 1869 and the consolidated unit was designated as Company A, 22nd Infantry. The 22nd Infantry was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division on March 24, 1923. The unit was then inactivated on June 30, 1927 at Fort MacPherson, GA.

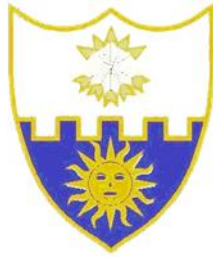
The unit reactivated on June 1, 1940 at Fort McClellan, AL before inactivating again at Camp Butner, NC on March 1, 1946 upon conclusion of World War II.

The battalion reactivated on July 15, 1947 at Fort Ord, CA. It reorganized and was redesignated on April 1, 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battle Group, 22nd Infantry and remained assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. It was reorganized and redesignated on October 1, 1963 as the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. It later inactivated in August of 1984 at Fort Carson, CO.

The unit reactivated in May 1986 at Fort Drum, NY and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light). Relieved from this assignment in February of 1996, the 1st Battalion was reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, TX.

Soldiers from the battalion have served in combat in nearly every campaign in our nation's history including the Indian Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, and Iraq. The men and women of this battalion continue to serve the nation and uphold the standards established by our predecessors.

Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words



**1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY MAILING
ADDRESS**

Soldier's Rank and Name
__ Company/1-22 IN
Unit# 42506
APO AE 09361-2506

REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER
CPT WARREN LITHERLAND

REAR DETACHMENT NCOIC
SFC HERNANDEZ

Phone (254) 288-2840

The Rear Detachment Office is located in Building
10002 on Battalion Avenue at Ft Hood—across from
Bennett Health Clinic